Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A method utilizing a team of heterogeneously

2 sharing network interfaces providing ~~operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to~~

3 ~~provide~~ primary and secondary use processing of data, comprising:

4   receiving data for processing by said team~~, said team having a primary network~~

5 ~~interface and at least one secondary network interface~~;

6   assigning processing of said received data to a first member of said team;

7   ~~if said data is primary use processing, then processing and transmitting said data~~

8 ~~by the first member of said team the primary network interface;~~ and

9   if said data is secondary use processing, determining if the first member lacks a

10 capability required for processing said data, and if so, ~~then~~ distributing processing of

11 said data ~~across said secondary network interfaces~~ to at least one second member of

12 said team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second

13 member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates

14 heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

15   2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which network interfaces

16 have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising:

17   setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC

18 address of the first member of said team

1   ~~loading a driver for the team of network interfaces, said driver configuring said~~

2   ~~team to operate in adapter fault tolerance mode and designating the primary network~~

3   ~~interface and the at least one secondary network interface;~~

4   ~~wherein said distributing processing is according to a workload of said secondary~~

5   ~~network interfaces.~~

6   3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, <u>in which network interfaces</u>

7   <u>have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, the method further comprising:</u>

8   <u>temporarily setting the MAC address for the second member of said team to the</u>

9   <u>MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said</u>

10   <u>transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team</u> ~~where if said primary~~

11   ~~network interface has available processing bandwidth, then distributing processing of~~

12   ~~said data across all network interfaces of said team~~.

13   4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said distributing

14   processing is according to a workload of each of said team of network interfaces

15   <u>supporting the capability</u>.

16   5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing said data includes

17   encrypting said data according to IPSEC.

18   6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

19   receiving data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

20   7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

21   receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming

22   interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

1   8.   (Currently Amended) An accessible readable medium having associated

2   encoded thereon instructions for heterogeneously sharing utilizing a team of network

3   interfaces providing operating in adapter fault tolerance mode to provide primary and

4   secondary use processing of data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine,

5   directs by directing a the machine processor to:

6   receive data for processing by said team, said team having a primary network

7   interface and at least one secondary network interface;

8   assign processing of said received data to a first member of said team;

9   if said data is primary use processing, then process and transmit said data by the

10   primary network interface; and

11   if said data is secondary use processing, determin if the first member lacks a

12   capability required for processing said data, and if so, then distribute processing of said

13   data across said secondary network interfaces to at least one second member of said

14   team having the capability, for transparent processing by the at least one second

15   member on behalf of the first member, wherein said transparent processing facilitates

16   heterogeneous sharing of said team even if the first member lacks the capability.

17   9.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, in which network interfaces

18   have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and said instructions including further

19   instructions to direct the processor to:

20   set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the MAC address of

21   the first member of said team

1   ~~load a driver for a team of network interfaces to configure said team to operate in~~

2   ~~adapter fault tolerance mode and designate the primary network interface and the at~~

3   ~~least one secondary network interface; and~~

4   ~~distribute processing according to a workload of said secondary network~~

5   ~~interfaces.~~

6   10.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, <u>in which network interfaces</u>

7   <u>have Media Access Control (MAC) addresses, and</u> said instructions including further

8   instructions to direct the processor to:

9   <u>temporarily set the MAC address for the second member of said team to the</u>

10   <u>MAC address of the first member of said team while the second member performs said</u>

11   <u>transparent processing on behalf of the first member of said team</u>

12   ~~determine if said primary network interface has available processing bandwidth,~~

13   ~~and if so, distribute processing of said data across all network interfaces of said team.~~

14   11.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including

15   further instructions to direct the processor to:

16   distribute processing of said data according to a workload of each of said team of

17   network interfaces <u>supporting the capability</u>.

18   12.   (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further

19   instructions to:

20   direct the processor to encrypt said data according to IPSEC.

21   13.   (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further

22   instructions to:

1   direct the processor to receive data for secondary use processing from an

2   operating system.

3   14.   (Original) The medium of claim 8, said instructions including further

4   instructions to direct the processor to:

5   receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming

6   interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

7   15.   (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a team of network interfaces

8   operating in adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use

9   processing of data, comprising:

10   identifying active and failed network interfaces of said team;

11   receiving data for processing and transmission by said team;

12   if said data is primary use processing, then distributing processing of said data

13   across said active network interfaces of said team; and

14   if said data is secondary use processing, then distributing processing of said data

15   across all active and failed network interfaces of said team, wherein if a first network

16   interface of said team lacks a capability required to process said data, then

17   transparently routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting

18   the capability.

19   16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

20   loading a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the

21   adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

22   17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

1   receiving, by a first one of said team of network interfaces, a portion of said

2   received data for processing; <u>and</u>

3   identifying <u>the capability is</u> ~~a processing mode~~ required for processing said

4   portion~~;~~

5   ~~determining if said first one supports the processing mode; and~~

6   ~~if not, then submitting processing of said portion to a second one of said team of~~

7   ~~network interfaces~~.

8   18.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

9   installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an

10   operating system; and

11   receiving data for secondary use processing from said operating system.

12   19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein an application programming

13   interface is configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

14   20.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

15   installing said team of network interfaces in a computing device having an

16   operating system; and

17   receiving data for secondary use processing from an application programming

18   interface configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.

19   21.   (Currently Amended) An <u>accessible</u> ~~readable~~ medium having <u>associated</u>

20   ~~encoded thereon~~ instructions for utilizing a team of network interfaces operating in

21   adaptive load balancing mode to provide primary and secondary use processing of

1   data, said instructions, when accessed by a machine, directs ~~by directing a~~ the machine

2   ~~processor~~ to:

3   identify active and failed network interfaces of said team;

4   receive data for processing and transmission by said team;

5   determine if said data is primary use processing, and if so, then distribute

6   processing of said data across said active network interfaces of said team; and

7   determine if said data is secondary use processing, and if so, then distribute

8   processing of said data across all active and failed network interfaces of said team,

9   wherein if a first network interface of said team lacks a capability required to process

10   said data, then routing said data to a second network interface of said team supporting

11   the capability.

12   22.   (Original) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including further

13   instructions to direct the processor to:

14   load a driver for said team, said driver configuring said team to operate in the

15   adaptive load balancing mode and appear to be a single network interface.

16   23.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, said instructions including

17   further instructions to direct the processor to:

18   receive a portion of said received data for processing by a first one of said team

19   of network interfaces;

20   identify the capability is ~~a processing mode~~ required for processing said portion~~;~~

21   ~~determine if said first one supports the processing mode; and~~

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1   ~~submit processing of said portion to a second one of said team of network~~

2   ~~interfaces~~.

3   24.   (Currently Amended) The <u>medium</u> ~~method~~ of claim 21, said instructions

4   including further instructions to direct the processor to:

5   receive data for secondary use processing from an operating system.

6   25.   (Currently Amended) The <u>medium</u> ~~method~~ of claim 21, said instructions

7   including further instructions to direct the processor to:

8   receive data for secondary use processing from an application programming

9   interface ~~is~~ configured to submit data for secondary use processing by said team.